

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS ANKARA 003079

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AF](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [IZ](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ ASSISTANCE: TURKEY WAITS FOR BETTER  
COORDINATION BEFORE SPENDING ITS USD 50 MILLION PLEDGE

Sensitive but unclassified -- not for internet distribution.

1. (SBU) Summary: Ambassador Rifat Okcun, the GOT's coordinator for assistance to Iraq and Afghanistan, told Econoff that he was disappointed with the Iraqi Government presentation to the May 25-26 Doha meeting and the apparent lack of donor coordination. He added that Turkey will wait until security and coordination improves before starting reconstruction projects under its USD 50 million pledge. End Summary.

#### Iraq Assistance

2. (SBU) Doha Meeting: Turkey's coordinator for Iraq and Afghan assistance, Ambassador Rifat Okcun, who recently returned from the Doha Iraq Trust Fund meeting, said he was disappointed at the quality of the presentation made by Iraqi officials, but added that a number of the donor delegations also appeared poorly prepared to discuss the priority needs for Iraq. As a result, he did not expect much progress from international donors to begin implementing projects in Iraq. He added that it was "appropriate and important" that Iraqi government officials took the lead to make the presentations to the donors, and he was upbeat about Iraq's future. He expressed his hope that we may soon reach the crest of the difficult portion of the process and "the ball will start rolling downhill." Okcun explained that he has a number of good project proposals that Turkey would like to initiate. However, Turkey will continue to wait for security to improve and for better donor coordination before it begins disbursing its USD 50 million pledge. He acknowledged the U.S. USD 10 million pledge to the IRFFI as an expression of good will, but agreed that U.S. assistance money for Iraq is better spent when it is managed directly by the U.S. Turkey will follow that same approach, preferring to manage directly the bulk of its assistance.

3. (U) IRFFI Pledge: Okcun reported that Turkey became the twentieth member of the IRFFI at Doha by pledging the minimum USD 1.2 million. The pledge will come from the USD 50 pledge Turkey made at the Madrid Donors' Conference. He added that Turkey will seek one of the two at-large seats on the Donor Committee and is preparing a meeting in New York of the representatives from the small donors to discuss Turkey's candidacy.

4. (SBU) Okcun raised his concern that contracting rules that require a certain percentage of Iraqi labor will lead to inefficiency and corruption. Under the Hussein regime, contractors frequently hired and paid local workers but did not use them to perform the work. He said there was insufficient qualified labor locally, which could compel some reconstruction contractors to follow the old pattern of paying but not using Iraqi labor.

#### Afghan Assistance

5. (U) Okcun was upbeat about progress of international assistance for Afghanistan. He said the Afghan government officials, on the whole, were very professional, and he expected reconstruction and the security situation to improve significantly in the coming year. He reported that Turkey had already disbursed USD 6 million of its total pledge of USD 10 million and that he had USD 2.9 million yet to spend this year. Turkey will almost certainly exceed its USD 10 million pledge in coming years, he added, and pointed out that these figures do not include a number of humanitarian assistance projects conducted by the Turkish military in Afghanistan.

CPA Baghdad Minimize Considered.  
EDELMAN